

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, August 25. 1705.

MY last gave a Specimen of the Dangerous Effects, Dishonest Scandalous Practices, and most Injurious Intolence of spreading false News, and mis-grounded Reports, and I gave a large account of a most Infamous Precedent made by *Dyer's* News-Letter in the *East-India* Trade.

I proceed to an Example less Tragick, tho' every jot as Malicious upon the Author of this Paper.

Nor should it be worth while to say any thing here of my self, having Learn'd long since, to Contemn the *Curse Causeless*, and slight the Malice of Men who fly in the Face of Truth, and hate the Author of this Paper, meerly because he moves them to that Peace, which is their only Happiness.

Peace-making being therefore such a Dangerous Thing in this Age, I advise all People to have a Care how they meddle with it: *Memento Mori*, Gentlemen; whoever attempts to perswade the High Churchmen to

Peace, let him please to accept of the following Cautions.

1. Let him not come near the Town of *Weymouth*, in *Dorsetshire*, lest the Worshipful Mr. Mayor crys out, *A Presbyterian Plot*; and not daring to meddle with him Personally, shall put all his Hearsays, Supposes, and Drunken Evidences together, and carry all the Honest People he can find that Converse with him, to *Dorchester* before a Judge, where Accusing this Peace-maker of a Phanatick Plot, and a Bloody Design, to perswade Folks to a Peaceable Rebellion, he comes Home with a Flea in his Ear, much about as Wise as he went.

2. Let him have a special care how he comes to *Exon*, particularly in Time of the Assizes, lest Mr. Alderman *B* ———, Mr. ———, and Mr. ———, should Consult about sending an *English* Free-holder, and Livery-man of the City of *London*, for a Soldier, according to the Laudable Example of *A* ——— *G* ———, but finding their Power

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weaker than their Malice, should afterwards apply themselves to some Body in Scarlet, Informing, That there are a Great Party of *Two Men*, gone forth into the Country, to raise Rebellion against the *High Church*, by Earnestly pressing all the well meaning People of *England*, to adhere to the Queen's Sober and Healing Admonitions and Exhortations to *Peace and Union*.

3. Let him have a special Care of all those Good Honest *Devonshire* Men, who when the Judge, according to his Duty, in his Charge to the Jury, tells them of Seditious Persons, who spread *Libels* about the Country, to the Disquieting Her Majesty's Subjects, and Directs them to put the Laws in Execution, will have it to be no Body but the *Peace-making Traveller*, that being in the Country on his Lawful Occasions, that brought neither Paper nor Pamphlet out with him, has spread no Sedition but that which Her Majesty from the Throne dictated to us all, viz. *The Absolute Necessity of Peace and Union*.

4. But above all, let him have a Care of Justice S—— near *Crediton*; for if ever he comes with his *Peace-making Sedition*, into his Parts, an Information in *Nubibus*, with an Oath, or without an Oath, shall procure a Warrant from his Worship to Take him up; and whatever Distance 'tis at, no Justice but himself shall Examine him, because he has good reason to believe, no Body but himself would Commit a Man upon so Trivial an Occasion; or so well answer the End of his *Exeter* Friends, who having Insinuated to the Judge, to mean some Body took upon them to Contrive it their own way, and point out the Man by common Reports, that he might be Insulted wherever they found him; not knowing, at the same time, but the Judge might be as likely to mean those Clergymen who Printed *Libels* in *Exeter*, upon the Queen, and their Bishop, and Dispers'd them all over the Country, in spite of Suspensions, Deprivations, and all the Ecclesiastick Censures of their Diocesan.

To all this there hangs a Tale, and the Wards of this Lock have a True Key which tho' to a *Devonshire* Man 'tis needless, yet to the rest of the World, it may be necessary to Inform them :

That the Author of this Paper, with but one Friend, and his Friend's Servant, being in the Western Counties of *England*, on a Journey about his Lawful Occasions, met with several Unmanlike and Unreasonable Insults upon the Road: That at *Weymouth*, his Letters being Delivered to a wrong Person by Mistake, were show'd about the Town. That a Friend having Wrote in one of them, as a *Piece of News*, and too true, That a certain Person had the Impudence to say in Defence of the High Churchmen, *That the Queen had broke her Coronation Oath*, and the like— The Wise Mayor of the Town Examines all the People he found had Convers'd with him, and officiously carries them to *Dorchester* before the Judges, the Assizes being then at that Place; where the Impertinence being discovered, the Mayor was sent back, the Gentlemen Dismiss'd, and the Wise Magistrate thought it his Duty to send up a Letter to the Court to Inform Her Majesty's Secretaries of State, what an' Officious B—— was Truffed with the Government of that Corporation.

That at *Exeter* this Story was Magnified sufficiently, and joyn'd to the Proper Malice of some particular Gentlemen, they procur'd the Judge, in his Charge to the Jury, to direct them to apprehend certain Seditious Persons; and to tell them, That a great many such were come into the Country, to stir up the People, and disturb the Peace.

That the Party would have the Judge to mean this Author, Reports were immediately spread, and industriously carried all over the County, that he had named the Author of this in particular, and that he should be apprehended wherever he was found.

That the Author being then at *Bideford* in *Devonshire*, and being told of what News was come into the Town from the Assizes, applied himself to the Mayor of the Town; but he being absent in the Country, he apply'd himself to the next Principal Magistrate, to offer himself to Justice, if any Man had any thing to Inform of, and to show him his Face, if Occasion requir'd.

That being Dismiss'd, as reason good, he Travelled on as his Business required, to *Tiverton*; and hearing that one Justice *Stafford*, near *Crediton*, had granted a Warrant for him, to be apprehended and brought before him,

him, tho' without any Information upon Oath, or mentioning to have him brought before any other Justice of the Peace, he sent him a Letter to acquaint him where he was, and which way he was going, and the Names of the Towns he would be at, if his Worship thought fit to send for him.

Pardon me, Gentlemen, who Expect from this Paper something Useful and Material, that I should take up your Time with the Melancholy Impertinencies of my own Matters, that the Empty Insignificant Prejudice of a Party, which I see nothing in worth giving a Man a Moments Disturbance, should take up any room in this Work.

But even this also may have its use, and Ages to come, to whom this *Prophet* that is thus *without Honour in his own Country*, may be thought more worth reading, ought to see how a Man is to be used, that attempts to persuade People to be quiet, when they resolve to fall out among themselves.

Nor is this published to condole with my self the Misfortune of having so many Enemies abroad, or running the Risk of so much Insolence for writing this, *I hope Innocent*, and I am sure well design'd Paper; I expected when I launc'd into this Sea of Letters to find it full of Thieves, Pirates, Lyers in wait, and all Sorts of Enemies.

Yet I cannot but express a great deal of Satisfaction in one Observation I have, with all possible Impartiality made of this matter; that where-ever I have been, all the Wife, Thinking, Judicious Part of Mankind, the Men of Sense, Manners and Honesty, even among the Church of *England*, nay, among the Clergy of the Church, every where behave themselves to me with Friendship and Respect; and the Implacable are no where found but among the Prejudices of the High-Church Party; together with the Impertinence of Fools, Knaves, and Madmen.

Such hate this Paper, because by it they are turn'd out among the *Stark Naked* of this Generation; I mean, such as Nature has stript of their Modesty, Passion has stript of their Reason, and Parties have stript of their good Manners.

Of these, whether Mayors, Country Justices, F—s or *Exeter*, Aldermen; I say, as the Text in another Case, *What means the Bleating of such kind of Cattel*, and the

Reply will hold they are reserv'd for a Sacrifice—A Wise Man ought to Sacrifice them all to his Peace, *this is*, not concern himself at any thing that they say or do; but looking on them as a Sort of despicable, or as they say in that Country, *May'd Men*, pass on to the Great Work before him, without disturbing himself about them: Not doubting but Time and Reason will one time or other show them their Error, and let them know, that he that persuades them to Peace, studies their own Benefit more than they do themselves.

Another Remark, however, I cannot but make, that where-ever this Paper has had the Fate to receive any Censure from these Gentlemen, it has all been by reviling, reproaching and abusing the Author, not at all objecting against what is said, but against the Person that says it; as if the Meanness and Despicable Character of the Person, speaking these Truths, lessen'd the Force of what he says; and yet of all People in the World, the High flying Party at this time have the least Reason to fly at the Persons of those that appear in print on this side, unless the C———*flies*, the W———*flies*, the Sack———*is*, and all the Rabble of their wonderful Advocates, such as Spies, Whipping-posts, Trippers, and the like; they had less Reason to be asham'd of, than their Neighbours.

No Man is more willing to think meanly of himself, than the Author of this Paper; and he heartily wishes he was as well qualified to perform it, as the Justice and Merit of the Cause demands; at the same time he must tell you, in his Care to adhere firmly to Truth, his Resolution to defend it to all Extremities, and his frankly exposing himself to all the Contempt, Folly and Rage of the exasperated Enemies of the Nation's Peace; He defies any Man to Out-do him; He laughs at the Threatnings of a Party, whom he always observed to be quiet while he was in their Towns, and showed himself at their Doors, but expos'd their contemptible Rage when he was gone; and this by a Fury all Men but themselves must own to be as ridiculous as unreasonable.

He cannot but Laugh at the Wisdom and Courage of a Country Justice, the Wife Esquire S———*d*, who having Carefully In-

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sued out his Warrant for the Author, after he could not but know he was gone, and searched every House but that where he Lodg'd, shew'd his Folly and his Temper, both at a Time.

Had these Wise Gentlemen Design'd really to have *Come to band*, as they call it, with the Author of this, nothing was more Easy than to have done it; and a small Difficulty would make it out, that they knew which Road he was gone, and to what Towns, but like the *Fam'd Hero that always look'd for his Enemy, when he knew he could not be found*, they sent their Warrants just the contrary way; having more Desire to have it said, They Granted a Warrant, than that they had Executed it; knowing they should have been Asham'd of letting the World see they had not been able to hold, or to hurt him.

But to prevent them even in that also, and make their Shame as publick as their Malice, I take the Liberty to tell that Worshipful Justice S——d and his Party,

1. That his Warrant was *Unjustice-like*, no Affidavit, or Information upon Oaths, being made of the Fact alledg'd, of which he may hear again in a way more Legal than his Warrant.

2. There is great reason to believe he had no Information at all, but Dishonour'd the Queen's Authority, by alledging what nothing but Party Malice Dictated, and what really no Man could Inform him of, *the Fact being False*, and so made his Warrant a Cover to a Fiction, which, *saving his Character*, is the worst sort of *Lying*.

3. That upon that Gentleman's giving his Word, that he will Apprehend and Commit me upon the Information of Dispersing Libels, as mentioned in his Warrant; I hereby promise him to come down from London on purpose, and putting my self into his Hands, give him Opportunity to make the Experiment at his Peril.

AMong the many Letters sent to the Author of this Paper, he has receiv'd two from a Gentleman, Sign'd *A. B.* who, as he says, from Friendship objects some things against the Morality of the Author, about paying his Debts, as he calls it; and

requires an Answer upon the Penalty of being thought all that his Enemies suggest.

The Author desires the Gentleman to Inform him how to send him a particular Answer, it being not worth while to Trouble the World with it in Print; in the mean time he refers that Gentleman to the Consideration of a few Generals.

1. He that cannot pay his Debts may be an Honest Man.

2. He that can, and will not, must be a Knave.

3. He that can pay his Debts at leisure, may not be able to do it at all at once; and if it were requir'd of all Men, the Lord have Mercy upon half the Tradesmen in *England*.

Or himself therefore he says, he that will not believe the Publick Disaster has been a Blow to his Affairs, and Disabled him from Immediate Compliance with just Demands, must be a Fool——He that will have Patience, will find him Honest; he *that will not*, seems to have more Cruelty than Humane Nature can Excuse, and labours as much as in him lies, to prevent the Tryal of his Integrity, and fore-chose himself.

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